



COMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Comberton Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 5th May 2021 at 7.30 pm via Zoom

Present: Penny Cook (Village Hall Chair), Revd. David Newton (St Mary's Church),
Glynis Ellis (Comberton Players), Andrew Marsh (Comberton United)
and Parish Council members.
Clerk – A Bridges.

Apologies for absence were received from
District Cllr Ian Sollom and Revd. Keith Tarring (Comberton Baptist Church).

- 1. Approval & signing of the minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting on 24th April 2019.**
Cllr McCabe proposed to approve these, and it was seconded by Cllr Scott. All agreed. The minutes were signed by the Chairman as a true record.
- 2. Report of the Parish Council for the year from Cllr Hywel Griffiths, Chairman**
Cllr Griffiths spoke of the need to highlight the proposals from East West Railway that the route may include the Comberton and Toft area. Cllr Griffiths described the great importance that all residents are aware of these plans, as they have no direct benefits to the community. Cllr Griffiths explained that the Parish Council is working with groups to ensure a fair consultation from EWR and asked that the Parish Council have residents support to do this.

Cllr Griffiths spoke of the changes to the Parish Council during the last year in Covid times, when all meetings have had to be conducted remotely. The children's play area was closed in the first lockdown and the Parish Council worked hard to open this again in the summer. Cllr Griffiths also spoke of the Recreation Working Group in the Parish Council and explained that they are very active and have great plans to change the pavilion and upgrade the play equipment. Likewise, the Pond Working Group has been very active planning work in the drier summer months to reline the bottom of the pond.

Cllr Griffiths thanked the Parish Council, the District Councillor and the many volunteers from the community for their hard work and time supporting the village.

Cllr Griffiths also spoke of the new opportunities to join the Parish Council which will be advertised soon.

3. Reports on the work and activities of groups and organisations on their activities including:

- Comberton Players (Mrs Glynis Ellis)**
Mrs Ellis spoke of the very successful Christmas pantomime in 2019, with ages participating from 7-70 plus. Mrs Ellis confirmed that there was no pantomime in 2020 due to Covid and the group had decided to organise the next one in 2022, to allow enough time to plan beforehand.
Mrs Ellis described the groups' successful live virtual performance of a Murder Mystery play, which was a challenge for actors and for props. Mrs Ellis spoke of children's workshops resuming in recent weeks, which have greatly been enjoyed by everyone.

- **St Mary's Church** (Rev D Newton)

Rev Newton spoke of his gratitude for the support from the friends of St Mary's for helping with the church. He described how Covid has changed the form in which the church helps and that local partnerships were becoming much more important in the community during the pandemic. Rev Newton spoke of the new partnership with the GP surgery called 'Time to Talk', which aims to help local people have time with trained volunteers. Rev Newton also expressed his thanks to the wider villager and explained that it costs over £60,000 to keep church a year and the village is very supportive of St Mary's.

- **Comberton Village Hall Institute Trust** (Mrs Penny Cook)

Mrs Cook spoke of the normally very busy village hall being unused for much of 2020, but the Trust were fortunate that SCDC had given a grant to enable them to continue without an income.

Mrs Cook spoke of children's activities recently starting back and further activities permitted later in the month. Mrs Cook confirmed that the inside of hall was painted last month, and the new front doors have been very welcome, as they are much easier to use. The windows and the side doors will also be replaced in the near future.

Lastly Mrs Cook described how the Charity status of the Village Hall Institute Trust was changed to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), which included transferring assets. This was announced for village information in Contact and on village notice boards with the offer of more information and to attend an online meeting, but there was no response from this from the village.

- **Comberton United** – (Mr Andrew Marsh)

Mr Marsh spoke of the club's extension to three teams, with an additional group coming from Comberton Crusaders. Mr Marsh spoke of the shorter football seasons both in spring 2020 and again before Christmas, due to Covid regulations, however all three teams are back playing in a competition, which has raised the morale of the players.

Lastly, Mr Marsh thanked the Parish Council for donating half the costs to upgrade the pitch last year and confirmed that further work is needed to level the ground to bring it up to step seven standards. Mr Marsh also spoke of the club's enthusiasm to be involved in the plans to upgrade the pavilion.

- **Scouts and Beavers**– (Cllr Martin).

Cllr Martin spoke of the success that Scouts enjoyed an online program going via Zoom throughout the year. The Beavers also remained active by submitting tasks and games. Cllr Martin stated that both groups are happy to be back meeting in person and now there are waiting lists for both Beavers and Scouts.

- **Comberton Baptist Church** (report from Rev K Tarring read by the Clerk)

Rev Tarring thanked the Parish Council for its funding to support the EDGE Community Youth Club. Rev Tarring confirmed that this will restart on the 1st of July, giving the current Year 6 children an introduction before they start the new school year at CVC.

Rev Tarring described the recent building work which has extended the size of the back hall (where the polling station was in the past), as well as removed the back wall of the church and lowered the floor. The work is due to be completed by the middle of June and Rev Tarring spoke of the improved facilities helping meet the needs of the community.

4. Open forum

Cllr Tierney spoke of his enjoyment of recently joining the Parish Council and thanked all for being so welcoming.

Closure of meeting - the meeting closed at 8.10 pm.